

REMARKS

Claim amendment and new claim addition.

Applicant has amended claim 15, cancelled claims 1-14 and 16, and added new claim 17. No new matter has been added with these amendments. Support for amended Claim 15 is found in the specification on p. 27, lines 19-25 ("The agent of the present invention for improving carbonyl stress state"); and in Example 9, among other places.

Support for new claim 17 is found in the specification on p. 5, line 36; p. 8, line 11 through p. 9, line 2, and particularly on p. 9, lines 26-29 ("A commercially available product, for example polystyrene carrier having sulfonylhydrazine groups (PS-TsNHNH₂, ARGONAUT TECHNOLOGIES CO.), can be used as a carrier for immobilizing carbonyl compound-trapping agent."), among other places.

Provisional Double-Patenting

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-14 and 16, amended claim 15, and added new claim 17 and as such, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 15 and 17 are patentably distinct from those in the cited references. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the provisional double-patenting rejections and submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

35 USC § 102 (a), (b), and (e) Rejections

A certified copy of a translation of the priority document WO 00/10606 to *Kurokawa et al.* is submitted herewith, thereby removing this application as prior art.

In addition, as discussed above, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-14 and 16, amended claim 15, and added new claim 17, thus rendering anticipation by Nakashima moot. Further, amended claim 15 does not cover OPB-9195 or aminoguanidine which are disclosed in *Miyata et al.*, thereby overcoming anticipation by this reference as well.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that all other anticipation rejections cited are no longer apposite in light of cancelled claims 1-14 and 16, and submit that all

pending claims are novel and in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejections is therefore requested.

35 USC § 103(a) Rejections

As with the anticipation rejections above, in light of cancelled claims 1-14 and 16, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are non-obviousness and in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and a notice of allowance are therefore requested.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required for the timely consideration of this response. In the event that an extension is required, however, this conditional petition for an extension of time is requested and Applicants request that any fees required for the timely consideration of this application be charged to deposit account number 19-4972. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain outstanding so that they may be resolved expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,



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